Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, Ash is a common native tree found throughout South Dakota, enhancing our state's air and water quality, natural landscapes, recreational destinations, wildlife habitats, property values, and local economies; and,

Whereas, Approximately one-third of urban and community street trees in South Dakota are ash, helping residents reduce heating and cooling costs, reducing air pollution and storm water runoff, increasing property values, and making our towns and cities some of the most beautiful in the country; and,

Whereas, The emerald ash borer, a destructive exotic beetle, has not been found infesting ash trees in South Dakota; and,

Whereas, Increasing public awareness and understanding of the emerald ash borer benefits the state of South Dakota by curtailing the artificial spread of the beetle through the movement of firewood; and,

Whereas, Employing a cooperative spirit and encouraging environmental stewardship throughout these states and partnerships ultimately reduces the risk to the nation's ash resources; and,

Whereas, It is the desired goal of the state of South Dakota that citizens and visitors alike increase their understanding and awareness of the emerald ash borer and its environmental, ecological, and economic impact on South Dakota and the nation; and,

Whereas, Spring marks the beginning of the travel and tourism season; and more abundant firewood movement through the state; and,

Whereas, Emerald Ash Borer Awareness Week is an opportunity for the government to join forces with the schools, businesses, industry, environmental groups, community organizations, tourists, and citizens to take action against the spread and introduction of the emerald ash borer:

Now, Therefore, I, Dennis Daugaard, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim May 21-27, 2017, as

EMERALD ASH BORER AWARENESS WEEK

in South Dakota.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Fourth Day of May in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Seventeen.

Dennis Daugaard

Dennis Daugaard, Governor

Attest:

Shantel Krebs

Shantel Krebs, Secretary of State